(b) whether the commodity-wise/service-wise earning are according to the targets fixed or there are areas which are lagging behind; and

(c) whether export projection councils have suggested any new strategies to be followed in the year 2005-06?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E V K S ELANGOVAN) (a) An export target of 16% in dollar terms has been fixed for the year 2004-05 It is expected that India's exports may cross US$ 75 billion during the current financial year India's exports were valued at US$ 53 50 billion during the first three quarters of the financial year 2004-05.

(b) Overall targets were fixed for merchandise exports and not for services Sectoral performance has been as projected for most sectors barring Agricultural and allied products, Project goods and Textile exports

(c) Suggestions for new strategies have been invited from Export Promotion Councils, Chambers of Commerce, Trade Associations, Stake Holders, etc. for consideration while finalising the annual supplement to the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) for 2005-06.

FDI in branded and dedicated retail sector

1567. DR. T SUBBARAMI REDDY.
SHRIMATI JAMANA DEVI BARUPAL

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state

(a) whether Government is planning to allow Foreign Direct Investment in branded and dedicated retail segments to boost investment in employment generating sectors;

(b) if so, whether FDI in the sectors, in which existing employment scenario will get distressed, is not likely to be considered;

(c) if so, what are areas where the Government has agreed to increase FDI; and

(d) to what extent Government has been able to get FDI improved in those projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (d) At present there is no proposal before the Government for decision on allowing FDI in the retail trade sector. However, the matter is being widely discussed by all stakeholders.